

MOZAMBIQUE



REVOLUTION

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1967

M O Z A M B I Q U E L I B E R A T I O N F R O N T

- F R E L I M O -

M O Z A M B I Q U E R E V O L U T I O N

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Editorial

25th of September

This is the third anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle in Mozambique. During the three years since the day when the first shot against Portuguese colonialism was fired, many things have happened. In the first place, the reasons which motivated the Central Committee of FRELIMO to resort to military action in order to secure our independence have not changed. The Portuguese government still insists on refusing to even acknowledge the right of self-determination of the people under her domination, arguing that her colonies in Africa and elsewhere are "overseas provinces." The many strongly worded United Nations resolutions which have been passed during the last 5 years, urging Portugal to develop her African colonies towards self-government and independence have been scornfully ignored by Salazar's fascist government. Instead the Portuguese government rejoices over the fact that in the last three years it has witnessed a steady swing of the Western Nato powers towards her position. Furthermore, they noted with special pleasure the fact that during the last session of the General Assembly of the United Nations when a resolution was tabled against Portugal, the major western powers, including the United States Britain and France not only spoke in favour of the Portuguese position, with minor equivocations here and there, but also went on to vote with racist South Africa and fascist Spain and Portugal against the position taken by the overwhelming majority of the members of the United Nations.

The people of Mozambique have also seen how since the beginning of the armed struggle the economic interests which during the last one hundred years have taken advantage of the slave labour conditions prevailing in Southern Africa, making exorbitant profits, are coming out more openly on the side of Portugal. These economic interests are cooperating in the establishment of more economic projects aimed at bringing more white settlers to our country, thus enabling Portugal to increase her military manpower for more suppression of the African people. There is a tendency for the same economic interests which are in South Africa and Rhodesia to take the leading position in financing Portuguese colonial economic projects. Note the Cabora Bassa adventure! It is obvious from the above that the position of the enemy concerning our basic rights for freedom has not changed; if anything, it has hardened and she has managed to get her traditional allies to come out more openly on her side. Therefore, the reasons which motivated the Central Committee of

FRELIMO to resort to the armed struggle continue to exist.

This conclusion forces us to ask ourselves the following question: has the armed struggle so far made it possible for the Mozambican people to come nearer their goal, independence? The answer is a strong YES! In the first place, about one third of our country is engaged in the armed struggle, with about one fourth liberated or semi-liberated. The rest of the country is eagerly awaiting for the day when it will be possible for the masses to hold a rifle in their hands and fire at the enemy. Furthermore, the masses of the areas engaged in direct armed action are beginning to enjoy the fruits of freedom. They are reorganising their administration, changing it from a non-democratic, fascist and colonial system to a democratic, people-oriented and people-controlled system. All feudal and colonial ideas and methods of structuring society and distributing authority are being wiped out of existence, and new, more democratic ways of organising our community are replacing them. Thirdly, the people of Mozambique, under the leadership of FRELIMO, are reconstructing their economy in such a way as to make it serve the basic needs of the masses. Since the soil of our land has for centuries been the main source of livelihood for the people, FRELIMO is encouraging the people in liberated and semi-liberated areas to work more and more on it. The last two years have seen a steady increase in the agricultural productivity of the people in the liberated and semi-liberated areas. This is in fact as it should be, since the people understand the intimate relationship which exists between agricultural production in the economic sphere and successful action against the enemy in the military sphere. In the fourth place, the people of the liberated and semi-liberated areas are developing their social services, including the establishment of medical clinics, primary schools and literacy campaigns in order to improve health services, provide educational facilities and make it possible for the majority of the adults to read. The department of economics and finance of FRELIMO is developing cooperatives for traders, traditional artisans and cottage industries. These and other positive activities of the people have helped to raise the morale of the masses, thus increasing the fighting spirit of those who are directly involved in guerrilla action against the Portuguese colonialists.

The last three years of the armed struggle in Mozambique have seen an increase in moral and material support from our friends abroad. FRELIMO'S position concerning foreign support is based on this reality: we are fighting Portuguese colonialism, allied with powerful international economic and military interests. In this struggle, which is a matter of life or death, we need the support of all forces who are sympathetic to our position. We accept aid, wherever it

it comes from, as long as it has no conditions attached. Furthermore, we also know that within the enemy camp itself there are millions of people who care for the things for which we are fighting. Simple logic alone would require that we encourage those who are with us to not only continue to be with us but also to do everything they can to materialise their sympathy and support, including helping to weaken the influence our enemy has on those who control their economic and political institutions.

Concerning the Arab-Israel conflict our position was made known last June when the crisis reached a breaking point, and nothing has happened since to require a new position. However, we are alarmed by the ever-increasing tendency for those who are dealing with the issue to overstress the relationship between Israel and those Arab states which have been directly involved in the armed struggle, to the almost complete oblivion of the Palestinian people, whose land was occupied by Israel. There can be no peace in the Middle East if those concerned with the present crisis concentrate on only retracing the Arab-Israel borders and ignore altogether the plight of the Palestinian people.

Concerning the Vietnam situation, we have always taken the position that if there is an internal conflict in Vietnam it ought to be left to the people of Vietnam to settle. Therefore, the involvement of the United States and her allies, after France had left, is nothing but an aggressive interference in the internal affairs of Vietnam. This position is clear enough. A settlement of the Vietnam issue which does not allow the FNL to realise its democratic aims is null and void. There can be no peace in Vietnam until the United States confronts itself with the fact that she and her allies are in Vietnam illegally and therefore her armed forces must withdraw from South Vietnam completely and unconditionally.

During the last three years the African independent states have been involved in a number of contradictory moves featuring, among other things, coups d'etat led by military men, civil wars and defections to Europe by important political leaders. We fear that these contradictions may so weaken the independent states that the European powers, goaded by their economic interests, allied to those of the United States, may be tempted to try a reconquest of the African continent. We note with alarm the ease with which the European mercenary leader, Major Schramme of Belgium, was able to recruit a military force sufficient to control an important city in the Congo. (The latest information indicates that Major Schramme is continuing to receive reinforcements in personnel, funds and material).

Against this negative trend, however, one must point out a number of gains which have been achieved in Africa during the same three-year period. We are referring to the ever-growing involvement of the African Liberation Committee in the struggle for the liberation of Southern Africa; which has increased its membership from 9 to 11, including Zambia, a country which is in a pivotal position in the struggle against the two main redoubts of white racism- Rhodesia and South Africa. It seems clear to us that all of Africa, regardless of differences in the economic and political positions of the various states, is committed to the present programme of the liberation struggle in Southern Africa. The Mozambican people have always been blessed with having two of the most revolutionary countries in Africa as their neighbours- Zambia and Tanzania. Tanzania has never had any problems as to the role she should play in the liberation of Africa, for, inspite of her material difficulties, she has always known how to interpret her policies in a manner that has favoured and supported the struggle. This revolutionary attitude reached a high point in the Arusha Declaration, which we wholeheartedly support, as it came at a crucial time in our struggle. This year the Tanzanian government announced that she was ready to fight side by side with her Mozambican brothers if it were felt necessary, but that the government of Tanzania believes that the role that she is so far playing is sufficient and that the Mozambican people themselves are capable of taking care of the enemy. Zambia has for some time had to take into consideration a number of material problems which made it difficult for her to translate into practical terms her determination for supporting the liberation struggle. Since her independence less than three years ago, Zambia has shown that she means what she says: she has been working hard to find solutions to her geographic situation while at the same time doing everything possible to support the struggle. There are other African states which have also done much more than giving support through the multi-lateral channel of the African Liberation Committee, these are, among others, Algeria, the United Arab Republic, and Tunisia. These African states inspite of the physical distance which separates us, have no difficulty in feeling the urge for more than one way of aiding the struggle of the people of Mozambique.

During the last three years there have been other kinds of programmes for which the Mozambican people sought and received support. These include education, social welfare and health. In the educational sphere FRELIMO has developed a system which includes primary, secondary, technical, professional and political training. We have also established with overseas educational institutions which, through

sympathetic governments and committees of solidarity, have been taking Mozambican students for training at higher technical and university levels. For material support of our educational programmes in Mozambique and Tanzania we owe a great deal of gratitude to the support of some Scandinavian governments and some socialist Asian and European governments. Outside the support which we receive from political and governmental bodies, we must mention the very important aid which several humanitarian and religious organisations have given to our educational and medical projects.

All of the above efforts by the various peoples of the world, motivated by various moral and political reasons, are welcome as they have no strings attached. The Mozambique Liberation Front is convinced that the struggle for the liberation of Mozambique will succeed because the people of Mozambique are determined to win their freedom from Portugal, no matter what the Salazar government tries to do and with whom. After three years of leading the armed struggle the Central Committee of FRELIMO is convinced more than ever before, that Mozambique shall be free.

The struggle goes on...

FRELIMO

MOZAMBIQUE LIBERATION FRONT

Communiqué

No. 102.

CABO DELGADO PROVINCE.

Three aircraft and a store of ammunition completely destroyed, the fuel deposit burnt, nearly all houses nearby the airfield ruined, dozens of Portuguese soldiers killed or wounded: this happened in MUEDA on the 2nd of August, in a mortar attack launched by FRELIMO forces. The fire raged for 2 days. On the 3rd of August, Radio Nampula (Portuguese) confirmed that 3 aircraft had been destroyed, as well as the fuel deposit and the storehouse (specifying that in the store there were mines, cannon shells, mortar shells, grenades, explosives and ammunition for light arms).

Besides this operation, FRELIMO fighters launched 8 more attacks against the Portuguese forces during the period between 12 July and 6 August, at which more than 100 Portuguese soldiers were put out of action and 4 military vehicles were destroyed.

The growing number of losses we are inflicting on the Portuguese force them to issue communiques such as the ones of 19 and 21 of this month (August), in which they announced 12 Portuguese soldiers dead, killed in the fighting in Mozambique.

1. On the 12th of July, 2 units of FRELIMO forces ambushed twice an enemy column in the zone of PALMA, killing 13 Portuguese soldiers and wounding 22.
2. On the 16th of July, our forces organised ambushes in 2 different places, on the road between DARUMBA and the village of COVECA. On the 19th, a convoy of 6 lorries carrying Portuguese soldiers left DARUMBA. At 9:10 a.m. they entered the zone of the first ambush and were attacked with machine gun fire and rifles. The enemy group stopped, and some hours later a helicopter landed to rescue the dead and wounded. The enemy convoy proceeded its trip towards COVECA. At 5 p.m. they fell into the 2nd ambush. Next day the helicopter came three times to rescue the dead and the wounded. About 30 Portuguese soldiers were put out of action.

3. On the 26th of July an enemy platoon was ambushed on the road leading to the lagoon of MBANALA. Eight enemy soldiers were killed.
4. On the 28th, FRELIMO guerrillas ambushed an enemy company on the road between MUEDA and MITEDA, killing 9 Portuguese soldiers of the front platoon.
5. On the 30th July, an artillery unit of one FRELIMO bases started organising an attack against the Portuguese military installations of MUEDA. After a reconnaissance of 3 days, our forces fixed the attack for the 2nd August. At about 6 p.m. on that day 3 aircraft(bombers) landed on the airfield of MUEDA. Some minutes later our forces opened mortar fire, simultaneously against the airfield, the deposit of fuel, the ammunition store and the houses situated near the airfield. The 3 aircraft were destroyed, as well as the fuel deposit, the ammunition store and some houses. Many enemy soldiers were killed. Next day a military plane overflew MUEDA but as it could not land, it continued towards the South.
6. On the 31st July a group of Portuguese soldiers succeeded in localising and attacking one of our military bases, in CHAI. The enemy entered the base but was afterwards expelled, suffering 15 dead. From our side, 4 comrades were killed and 3 were wounded.
7. The 1st of August a convoy of 5 lorries on the way from NANGADEto MOCIMBOA DO RUVUMA entered a zone mined by our guerrillas, and the first 2 lorries were destroyed. Demoralised, the Portuguese soldiers decided to return to NANGADE. On their way back, however, our fighters had placed a tree trunk across the road, with a mine trap. When the Portuguese soldiers were removing the trunk, the mines exploded: 10 enemy soldiers were put out of action.
8. At the first week of August, FRELIMO forces planned a series of ambushes on the road between MUEDA-MITEDA-MUIDUMBE. The road was mined, 300 meters from the post of MUIDUMBE. Three guerrilla units placed themselves in ambush at three different places on the road. On the 6th August, a column of military vehicles left the post of MUIDUMBE, towards MUEDA. They came upon the mines, and 2 lorries were destroyed. Some of the other vehicles returned to MUIDUMBE, carrying the dead and wounded. The enemy reorganised the trip, and moved towards MUEDA. Those troops wanted to reach MUEDA in order to reinforce the company that had suffered heavy losses due to our mortar attack on the 2nd. A few miles further the enemy were ambushed again by one of the FRELIMO units. The losses they suffered forced them to ask for reinforcements from the post of NANGOLOLO. One column of military

vehicles left NANGOLOLO, but was in its turn ambushed by our 2nd group and could not proceed. The Portuguese asked then for reinforcements from MITEDA. A new column of vehicles left MITEDA to assist the Portuguese soldiers who had been ambushed - but they were ambushed by the third group of guerrillas, who had been waiting for them near MITEDA. During these actions the enemy suffered heavy casualties: however we do not know yet how many.

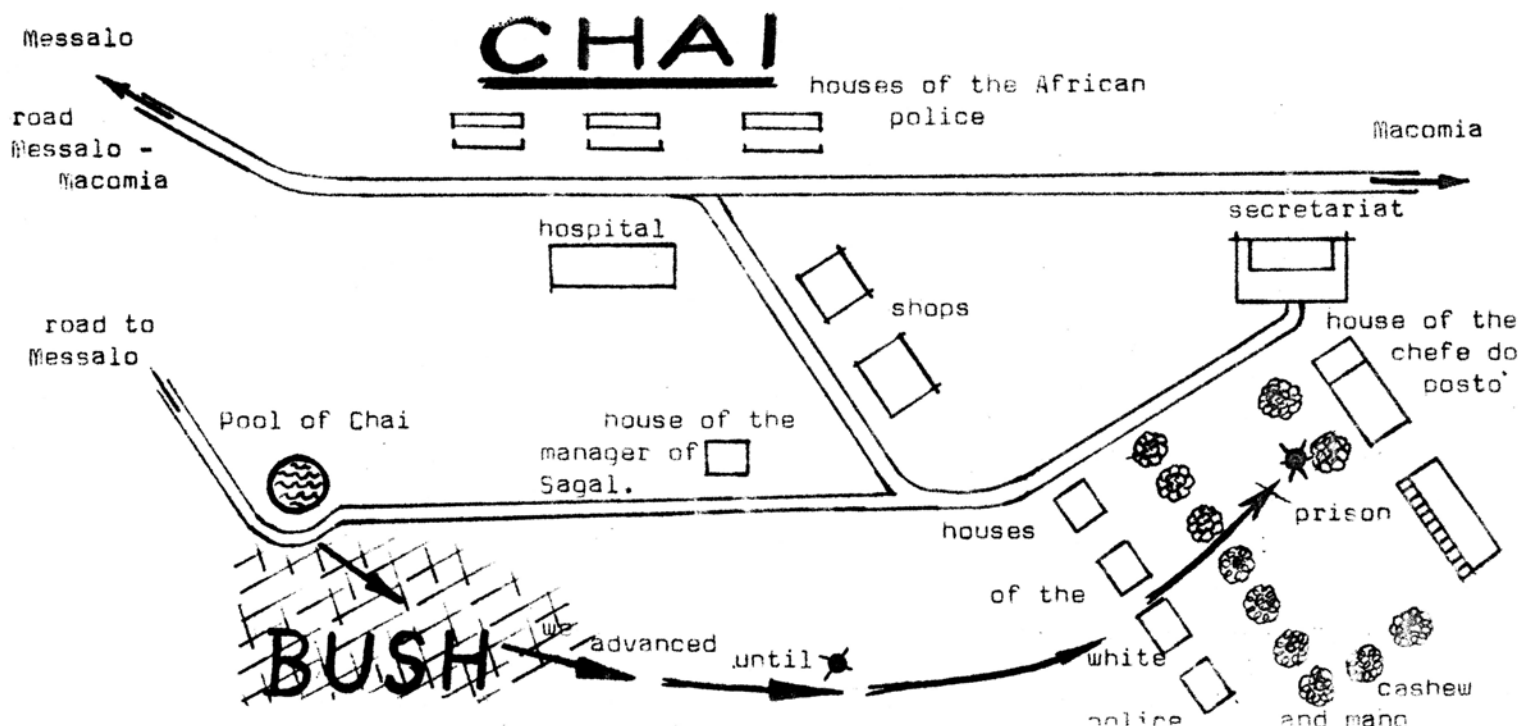
DAR ES SALAAM,
27th August, 1967.

The First Combat

25th SEPTEMBER 1964
CABO DELGADO PROVINCE

During the underground manoeuvres of the month of September I received an urgent call from MUEDA. The operational leaders from the zones of Montepuez, Mocimboa da Praia, and Porto Amelia were summoned. I was there and with me the other operational leaders. We had been called together to hear instructions from the Central Committee about the day when we were to start our attacks on the Portuguese troops. On September 20th we received this information - the struggle was to begin on the 25th. We immediately began to organise ourselves. We alerted the chairman of each zone (Muidumbe, Mocimboa da Praia, Montepuez, Chai, Mocimboa do Ruvuma, Nangade, Diaca) to organise groups of saboteurs. Their task would be that of sabotaging bridges, railway lines and roads (by digging trenches and laying blocks of tree trunks). We told them to start work at 6 p.m. on the night of the 24th. We explained how they should set some ~~man~~ on watch while the team worked. My task was to direct the attack on Chai. Other groups would attack other zones.

I left Mueda for my zone, where I arrived on the 23rd of September. I informed my comrades about the day when the struggle was to start. We had 16 weapons: 6 sub machine guns 6 rifles and 4 automatic pistols. We selected a group of 12 comrades, and left behind us some weapons for the defence of the base. On the morning of the 25th we arrived at the township of Chai. We went without our shoes for fear that we should be discovered and followed because of our boots. The township has a secretariat, the house of the chefe do posto, the house of the manager of Sagal(a cotton company), shops, a hospital, a prison and the houses of the policemen and of the white police.



We camped near the Lake of Chai. I told one of our comrades who was in uniform to put on civilian clothes and go out to reconnoitre the township. I put a bandage on his foot so that he could feign illness. He went out to the medical station in the post, stayed there some time and then went up to the secretariat. He got into conversation with an African who unknowingly revealed where the troops slept: the white soldiers slept behind the house of the chefe do posto; the officials slept in his house; the African soldiers slept in the secretariat. This Mozambican also told our comrade where the sentries were posted (on the veranda of the secretariat and the house of the chefe do posto).

The guerrilla stayed a little longer, went round the house of the chefe do posto and the prison, then went back to the secretariat. He saw three lorries going out, and learnt that they were going out on a hunting expedition. They went out hunting everyday. After this every night one lorry would go on patrol. Our comrade came back with his information. I made a plan of attack. One machine gun would neutralise the African troops in the secretariat. I decided to concentrate the attack against the house where the chefe do posto and the officials were. I gave each comrade his position for the attack. They were to stay under the mango trees camouflaged. At 16 hours we came out into the open, at 18 hours we were at the post, in our positions. The Portuguese were beginning to light the lamps in the houses. At 19 hours we advanced until we reached the house of the chefe do posto. While we were advancing the lorries that had been out on the hunt returned and came between us and the house. They unloaded the animals which had been killed. We watched their every movement. We were not seen. After they had unloaded the soldiers got into the lorry and set off on the road to Macomia. The lorries disappeared - we decided they had gone on patrol. The guard came and stationed himself at the door of the house of the chefe do posto, seated on a chair. He was white. I approached the guard to attack him. My shot would be the signal to the other comrades to attack. The attack took place at 21 hours. When he heard the shots, the chefe do posto opened the door and came out - he was shot and killed. Apart from him, 6 other Portuguese were killed in this first attack. The explanation given by the Portuguese authorities was "death by misadventure." We withdrew. On the following day we were pursued by some troops - but by that time we were far away and they failed to find us.

ZIMBABWE

THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WILL CRUSH

THE PUPPET REGIME OF IAN SMITH

We salute the national liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe. All endeavours carried out by the national liberation movement to find a peaceful solution for ending

colonial rule in Zimbabwe have failed. The minority white clique of Ian Smith seized power in Rhodesia with the complicity of the Government of the United Kingdom led by Harold Wilson. Undoubtedly the Smith minority white regime is a puppet of British imperialism imposed by force to suppress the African people and perpetuate a local-white colonial domination.

The African people in Zimbabwe, denied their rights for freedom and self-determination by the machination of Great Britain, face a new tragic period of suffering and tyranny in the racist and fascist regime of Ian Smith. Now, it is very clear that it is only to deceive the Zimbabwe people and world opinion that the Labour Government of Harold Wilson has hypocritically imposed the claimed "economic sanctions on Rhodesia," with no sincere desire to succeed:

Finally the Zimbabwe people have gained a clear consciousness of their real situation, and have unanimously arisen with guns in their hands and are fighting courageously for their freedom.

The Mozambican people led by FRELIMO firmly support the heroic struggle of the people of Zimbabwe against the common enemy: colonialism, racism and imperialism.

We consider this new stage of the armed struggle in Zimbabwe as a great contribution to our struggle in Mozambique. The solidarity of our people will strengthen the revolutionary ranks of the oppressed people and will accelerate the action which will demolish for ever the colonialist and racist regime of Salazar and Ian Smith. We believe that it is by intensifying the armed struggle in Mozambique that we will render our solidarity and support to the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe more effective, and will destroy all schemes conceived by Salazar-Vorster-Ian Smith aimed at sabotaging and undermining the national liberation movements of Southern Africa.

We are firmly decided to continue our struggle for freedom and national independence until final victory, and we will continue persistently to support the just struggle of the people of Zimbabwe against the racial and fascist regime of Ian Smith backed by the Nato groups of imperialist powers, namely, Great Britain, West Germany, France, and the United States of America.

We are looking forward to new and great victories for the heroic people of Zimbabwe and we hope that they will strengthen their unity and will intensify the armed struggle till the final victory.

INDEPENDENCE OR DEATH - WE WILL WIN!

By the Central Committee - Dr Eduardo Mondlane
President

Through Portuguese Eyes

Since the beginning of the armed struggle the Portuguese official information agencies have been in a dilemma: on the one hand they want to minimise the action of liberation forces in order to retain the confidence of investors and of their military allies and to keep their own people and the people of Mozambique in ignorance as to the strength of the freedom fighters. On the other hand they want to convince their southern African and NATO allies of the need to give their hard-pressed forces military support. In any case as the scale of the war increased it became impossible to hide its existence altogether, and it became necessary to publish communiques to try to convince the white settler in Mozambique and interested parties in Portugal that effective action was being taken against the guerrillas. At first the policy of denial prevailed but as the war began to make a decisive impression not only in Mozambique but in Portugal as well the Portuguese authorities have been forced more and more to take the second course. The following excerpts from official statements and from the Portuguese press illustrate how the Portuguese have been changing their tune, since the outbreak of the war in 1964.

1) 12th September 1964 (Before the launching of the armed struggle) "Diario da Manha" :

"It is clear that we, Portuguese are forwarned and it will not be possible for the agent Eduardo Mondlane to repeat in Mozambique the vile exploits of agents in Angola. He who is forwarned doubles his defences.

2) 9th October 1964. Statement of a spokesman for the Portuguese Defense Ministry, quoted in the Johannesburg "Star", commenting on reports of armed action in Mozambique.

" "There has been nothing at all whatsoever. These are only rumours which we absolutely deny"

3) October 20th 1964 "Diario Popular" Lisbon:

"The supposed terrorist invasions in Mozambique are still being exploited by some sections of the world press and radio. However, besides the infiltration over our border by 5 groups of less than 20 individuals, some disguised in Portuguese uniform, nothing has happened to disturb the peace or provoke alarm."

"The period from the 1st to the 15th of September has been characterised by an intense offensive on the part of our forces against bands of terrorists who have infiltrated our territory, particularly in the region of Mueda where as a result of our action terrorist activity has been considerably diminished."

"The armed forces information bulletin relating to the second fortnight of May has been released.650 military actions of different types have been executed among which one battle is worthy of special mention, which took place in Mecanhelas, a zone of several thousand square kilometres." (Mecanhelas is in the extreme South of Niassa Province.)

"More than 5000 people have already died in the almost forgotten but deadly little "bush" war the Portuguese are slowly waging in the remote Northern areas of Mozambique....
...The Portuguese claim they have lost only 378 soldiers - 212 in action, and 166 as a result of accidents or disease - since the fighting started, while about 3,500 troops have been wounded...
...This war is....costing the Portuguese Government a small fortune - about R15million (£7,500,000 sterling) for land forces alone in 1967."

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